

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 1, 6 and 8 have been amended to recite that the adhesive layer comprises a catalyst. Support for the amendments is found in the original application, in particular on page 4, lines 21-22. Further, claim 13 has been amended to clarify that the adhesive layer is applied to a polarizing containing a dichroic substance. Also, new claims 15-24 have been added. Support for the new claims is found in the original application, in particular on page 4, lines 21-22 and in the Examples.

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. Independent claim 1 is directed to a polarizing plate. Claims 2-5, 9-12, and 19-20 depend directly or indirectly on claim 1. Independent claim 6 is directed to an optical member. Claims 7 and 21-22 depend on claim 6. Independent claim 8 is directed to a liquid crystal display. Claims 17 and 23-24 depend on claim 8. Independent claim 13 is directed to a process for producing a polarizing plate. Claims 14-18 depend directly or indirectly on claim 13.

In the Office Action dated October 22, 2003, claims 1-4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by US 4,388,375 to Hopper et al. (Hopper), claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hopper in view of US 3,531,351 to Buzzell (Buzzell), claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as obvious over US 4,545,648 to Shulman et al. (Shulman) in view of Hopper, claims 9-12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hopper, and claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Buzzell.

In the Advisory Action dated February 9, 2004, it is alleged in substance that in Hopper, the stretched PVA film is attached to the substrate through the PVA adhesive before dyeing and boronic treatments, so that boric acid inherently migrates to the PVA adhesive layer when the

laminate is passed through the stabilizing boronic treatment after dyeing.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. Hopper is completely silent as to providing an adhesive layer comprising (i) a water-soluble crosslinking agent capable of crosslinking a vinyl alcohol-based polymer, and (ii) a catalyst, as recited in present claims 1, 6, and 8. An advantage of the presently claimed invention is that durability can be improved, as described in the present application. This feature of the present invention is not taught or suggested in Hopper or any of the other cited references, and therefore, present claims 1 and 8 are not obvious over any combination of the cited references.

Further, Hopper attaches the PVA film to a substrate with adhesive immediately after stretching and before dyeing, so that Hopper is completely silent as to applying an adhesive layer comprising a water-soluble crosslinking agent capable of crosslinking a vinyl alcohol-based polymer to a polarizing film containing a dichroic substance, as recited in present claim 13. An advantage of this feature is that the crosslinking agent in the adhesive layer can be adjusted so as to improve durability, as described in the present application. This feature of the present invention is not taught or suggested in Hopper or any of the other cited references, and therefore, present claims 1 and 8 are not obvious over any combination of the cited references.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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